

REMARKS

The Office Action of August 11, 2004 has been received and its contents carefully noted.

The present Amendment revises two paragraphs in the specification to improve their idiomatic English. It also revises the Abstract to consolidate the Abstract into a single paragraph and to improve its idiomatic English.

The present Amendment also makes revisions in most of the claims to improve their form under U.S. claim-drafting practice. In addition, it makes substantive changes in the “wherein” clause of independent claim 15. Finally, the Amendment adds new dependent claims 17-21 to further protect the invention. Claims 17-19 provide that the “user terminal” of the independent claims comprises “a portable cellular phone having a web browser.” This is supported (for example) by the paragraph bridging pages 11 and 12 of the application. Claims 20 and 21 are directed to how a cookie can be handled even if the user terminal is unable to accept cookies. These claims are supported by the passage at page 24 of the application, line 16, to page 26, line 16.

A brief summary of the disclosure of this application will now be presented. Figure 1 of the application’s drawings illustrates a network 30 that is connected to a relay server 40, a shop server 50, a wallet server 60, a payment server 78, and a certificate authority 80. The network 30 is also connected to a gateway 20, which communicates with user terminals 10. The user terminals 10 may be cell phones or electronic games having modest web browsers 11.

As the application explains, the relay server 40 permits a user terminal 10 with limited data processing functionality to be used in electronic commerce. The relay server 40 intervenes in communications between the user terminal 10 and most of the servers that are connected to the network 30 (see Figure 3 of the application’s drawings), and basically acts as a stand-in for the user terminal 10 during communications with these servers. The relay server 40 can then abstract data concerning a transaction that it receives from the servers and then pass on to the user

terminal 10 a set of data that has been reduced enough that it does not swamp the limited data processing capabilities of the terminal 10.

The relay server 40 may use a template in the data abstracting operation, as shown in Figure 5 of the application's drawings. This template can be tailored to the amount of memory available in the terminal 10. Since the terminal 10 may comprise a cell phone and also since cell phones do not normally accept cookies, the relay server 40 may also extract a session ID from a cookie sent by the wallet server 60 and send the session ID to the terminal 10 in a hidden character string. In this way, the transaction can proceed even if the user terminal 10 is incapable of handling cookies.

Section 2 of the Office Action rejects independent claims 1 and 15 (along with the claims depending from claim 1) for obviousness on the basis of Atalla in view of Teicher. Furthermore, section 3 of the Office Action rejects independent claim 16 for obviousness on the basis of the same two references. For the reasons discussed below, however, it is respectfully submitted that the independent claims are patentable over these references.

The Atalla reference is directed to an improved way to send encrypted data over a network. Section 2 of the Office Action takes the position that the reference discloses a relay server 151 (see Atalla's Figure 15) that can be installed in a payment system. It is respectfully submitted, though, that what Atalla's server 151 does is participate in the construction of encryption keys so that encrypted data can be sent from Atalla's origination unit 152 through his server 151 to his destination unit 153. In contrast, independent claim 1 now recites that a relay server comprises "a redirecting section which receives from said user terminal procedure requesting information ... and transfers said procedure requesting information to said shop server, and which receives said payment information from said shop server and transfers said payment information to said wallet server." This is not at all comparable to the activity of Atalla's server 151 in passing encrypted data from an origination unit to a destination unit, and the

participation of Atalla's server 151 in the generation of keys for encrypting and decrypting the data.

Independent claim 15 now recites "sending procedure-requesting information ... from said user terminal to a relay server that is connected to said network, sending said procedure-requesting information from said relay server to said shop server, sending said payment information from said shop server to said relay server, and sending at least a summary of said payment information from said relay server to said terminal." For the reasons along the lines discussed above with respect to claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that this is neither disclosed nor suggested by Atalla.

The Atalla reference is not directed primarily to electronic commerce, although the reference comments in a passage at column 15 (noted in the Office Action) that Atalla's invention can be used for security in such an application. The Office Action therefore relies on the Teicher reference for features involved specifically in electronic commerce. However, the Teicher reference does not disclose a relay server and thus cannot remedy the deficiencies in the Atalla reference that were discussed above with respect to independent claims 1 and 15. Moreover, the mere existence of Atalla's server 151 does not suggest using the server 151 in Teicher's electronic commerce system so as to relay the particular information recited in claims 1 and 15 from the sources to the destinations that are recited in claim 15.

Turning now to independent claim 16, this claim now recites a redirecting section which is used "to receive said payment information from said shop server and transfer said payment information to said wallet server, and to receive from said user terminal a payment processing request to make a request of said payment server for said payment processing and to transfer said request for payment processing to said wallet server." In independent claim 16, as in independent claims 1 and 15, particular data for use in electronic commerce is relayed between particular servers. Despite Atalla's use of a server 151 and his generation of encryption keys to permit data to be sent securely from an origination unit to a destination unit, and also despite Teicher's

electronic commerce system, it is respectfully submitted that the references would not have led an ordinarily skilled person to the invention defined by independent claim 16.

Since the remaining claims depend from the independent claims discussed above and recite additional limitations to further define the invention, they are patentable along with their independent claims. Nevertheless, several of the dependent claims will now be briefly addressed.

Dependent claim 4 recite that the relay server comprises “a contents converting unit to select at least one predetermined information item for said information for said payment procedures, based on a receiving capability of said user terminal, to produce summarized information using said at least one selected information item and to transmit said summarized information to said user terminal.” Nothing in the Atalla reference would have led an ordinarily skilled person to modify Atalla’s server 151 so as to achieve the selection/summary function specified in claim 4. Claims 5-11, 13 and 14 depend directly or indirectly from claim 4 and specify further features that an ordinarily skilled person could not have gleaned from the Atalla reference.

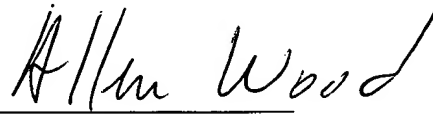
New dependent claims 17-19 specify that the user terminal comprises “a portable cellular phone having a web browser.” Nothing in either reference would have suggested using such a portable cellular phone as the origination unit 152 of the Atalla reference.

New dependent claims 20 and 21 specify a technique for handling a cookie that is not suggested by the references.

It is noted that this application now contains 21 claims. Accordingly, an additional claim fee of \$50 is included in a remittance that is being submitted concurrently.

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Allen Wood". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

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